

352.07426
m55
1857

REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF MERRIMACK,

FOR THE YEAR 1856-7.

~~~~~

NASHUA:

WHITTEMORES' PRESS.

1857.





## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

### SCHOOLS.

|                 |                        |                |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| District No. 1, | John L. Reed,          | \$90 86        |
| " "             | 2, Samuel Campbell,    | 81 88          |
| " "             | 3, Samuel C Anderson,  | 197 04         |
| " "             | 4, Joseph Blanchard    | 94 31          |
| " "             | 5, Isaac Humphrey,     | 85 02          |
| " "             | 6, B. M. Hills,        | 73 01          |
| " "             | 7, John McGilvray,     | 88 16          |
| " "             | 8, Josiah B. Chandler, | 85 48          |
| " "             | 9, David Henderson,    | 110 03         |
| " "             | 10, Oliver McConihe,   | 37 74          |
| " "             | 11, John L. Bowers,    | 78 71          |
| " "             | 12, Thomas M. King,    | 46 59          |
|                 |                        | —————\$1068 83 |

### ROADS AND BRIDGES.

|                                         |              |       |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| James Eayrs, work done 1855, near       |              |       |
|                                         | Eayrs' Mill, | 33 43 |
| George B. Glynn, "                      | " "          | 11 74 |
| Joshua K. Bowers, "                     | " "          | 4 75  |
| Amasa Estey, breaking roads in 1855-56, |              | 16 75 |
| Interest on Estey order,                |              | 48    |
| James S. Mooney, breaking roads         | " "          | 6 50  |
| Oliver McConihe,                        | " "          | 2 12  |
| H. B. Spalding,                         | " "          | 7 50  |
| Rufus Blood, 2d,                        | " "          | 1 20  |
| Aaron Gage,                             | " "          | 5 00  |
| Amos Harris,                            | " "          | 4 00  |
| K. W. French,                           | " "          | 4 75  |

|                                                                           |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Richard Fretts, breaking roads in 1855-6,                                 | 3 54  |
| Freeman Nichols, " "                                                      | 1 50  |
| Abner C. Darrah, " "                                                      | 1 02  |
| Daniel Parker, " "                                                        | 5 52  |
| Reuben Melvin, " "                                                        | 3 37  |
| Daniel T. Ingalls, " "                                                    | 3 00  |
| Chase & McQuestion, " "                                                   | 5 00  |
| Solomon Spalding, " "                                                     | 3 00  |
| Hartwell Lawrence, " "                                                    | 6 94  |
| Henry T. I. Blood, " "                                                    | 6 00  |
| Richard H. Center, for plank on the<br>Field's bridge,                    | 8 23  |
| Aaron B. Woodard, labor on the<br>Field's bridge,                         | 2 55  |
| Albert B. Junkins, labor on the Field's<br>bridge,                        | 4 00  |
| Richard H. Center, labor on the Field's<br>bridge,                        | 2 25  |
| T. J. Foster, labor on the Field's<br>bridge,                             | 1 75  |
| Luther W. Read, labor on the road and<br>bridge,                          | 9 30  |
| B. M. Hills, " " "                                                        | 4 75  |
| Smith E. Fields, labor and cash on<br>Field's bridge and district No. 12, | 24 75 |
| Samuel Fuller, plank and timber for<br>the bridges,                       | 70 05 |
| James S. Mooney, labor on the roads<br>and bridge,                        | 13 00 |
| H. F. Duncklee, for timber for Dunck-<br>lee bridge,                      | 6 37  |
| Gilman T. Foot, labor on Duncklee<br>bridge,                              | 1 25  |
| Newton McCluer, repairing bridge be-<br>low Holt's mill,                  | 7 00  |
| Josiah Seaverns, timber for Field's<br>bridge,                            | 12 00 |
| John Carroll, labor on the road Dis-<br>trict No. 12,                     | 2 50  |
| Francis Carlton, labor on the road Dis-<br>trict No. 12,                  | 2 50  |



|                                                       |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Heirs of Timothy Carlton, timber for stringer,        | 23 83          |
| David Jones, plank for bridge over Babboosuck brook,  | 23 20          |
| James Hay, for labor on bridge over Babboosuck brook, | 3 00           |
| Isaiah Holt, for shoveling snow in 1857,              | 4 70           |
| Charles H. Longa, for railing at turkey hill bridge,  | 8 06           |
| G. B. Glynn, for breaking roads,                      | 4 50           |
| Abiel Holt, for plank,                                | 10 70          |
|                                                       | <hr/> \$387 35 |

## TOWN OFFICERS.

|                                                                |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Caleb Jones, town clerk,                                       | 8 00           |
| Samuel Fuller, town treasurer,                                 | 5 00           |
| Smith E. Fields, selectman and overseer of the poor,           | 37 00          |
| James Hay, selectman and overseer of the poor,                 | 30 00          |
| H. B. Spalding, selectman and overseer of the poor,            | 50 00          |
| Matthew P. Nichols, superintending school committee,           | 22 00          |
| H. B. Spalding, superintending school committee,               | 22 00          |
| B. M. Hills, collector of taxes,                               | 39 00          |
| David Henderson, for services as liquor agent,                 | 40 00          |
| C. T. Nourse, for services as liquor agent to March 1st, 1857, | 20 00          |
|                                                                | <hr/> \$273 00 |

## ALMSHOUSE.

*Expenditures under the superintendence of Timothy F. Moore :*

|                                                |      |
|------------------------------------------------|------|
| John Abbott, for blacksmith work,              | 62   |
| “ “ “                                          | 10   |
| “ “ “                                          | 75   |
| “ “ “                                          | 85   |
| “ “ “                                          | 10   |
| Straw & Currier, for coffin for Miss Mitchell, | 4 00 |

|                                                   |        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|
| L. H. Brown, robe and cap for Miss Mitchell,      | 1 67   |
| C. C. Danforth, for coffin for John Thompson,     | 3 90   |
| Mrs. Few, for robe for John Thompson,             | 1 00   |
| Edward Coburn, for digging John Thompson's grave, | 3 00   |
| Peter Whittemore, 1 turkey,                       | 1 50   |
| Abigail Stevens, 1 turkey,                        | 1 35   |
| Aaron Gage, 4 bushels of oats,                    | 2 00   |
| Ward Parker, 1 pair of oxen,                      | 108 00 |
| Putnam & Chase, 2 plow points,                    | 75     |
| David Russell, 1 ounce of opium,                  | 50     |
| Aaron Gage, use of cart,                          | 75     |
| Barr & French, for goods,                         | 1 29   |
| L. Perkins, 8 pounds of fish,                     | 25     |
| Daniel Mack, for 1 set of plow irons,             | 5 00   |
| B. Hardy, for 7 lbs. of tobacco,                  | 1 60   |
| John Lord, for 2 sheep,                           | 3 00   |
| Isaac Parker, 23 lbs. of wool, 28c per lb.        | 6 44   |
| Reuben Melvin, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of beans,     | 1 15   |
| J. W. Wheeler, 1 pair of oxen,                    | 140 00 |
| Jacob Hartshorn, 4 bushels of rye,                | 4 00   |
| T. H. Gibby, 2 oz. of opium,                      | 1 00   |
| George W. Moore, for doctoring,                   | 25     |
| H. H. Peters, for carding wool,                   | 2 13   |
| John Walker, one sieve,                           | 25     |
| George Wells, 3 bushels of rye,                   | 3 00   |
| George Blood, $8\frac{1}{2}$ days work,           | 12 75  |
| A. J. Dow, for mending harness,                   | 60     |
| George Goff, for mason work,                      | 63     |
| Hall & Moore, 1 bag of meal 1,50—                 |        |
| 107 lbs. of shorts, 1,07                          | 2 57   |
| Hardy & Spofford, for goods,                      | 2 00   |
| A. J. Dow, for hamestrap,                         | 17     |
| G. Small, for shoeing horse,                      | 88     |
| John Wheeler, use of seed sower,                  | 25     |
| Henry Marvell, $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of beef,       | 67     |
| Joseph C. Moore, 2 bags of meal,                  | 2 90   |
| " " 1 bag "                                       | 1 70   |
| H. W. Marvell, 22 lbs. of beef,                   | 1 76   |
| " " $14\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of tallow,               | 1 60   |



|                                                                                          |                |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----|
| J. G. Cilley, fixing 2 axes,                                                             | 1              | 13 |
| J. H. Moore, 1 bag of meal,                                                              | 1              | 65 |
| A. J. Dow, for fixing hames,                                                             |                | 58 |
| D. B. Eastman, 1 pot,                                                                    | 1              | 00 |
| D. H. Daniel & Co., saw, 1 ax-helve,                                                     |                |    |
| 1 gimblet.                                                                               | 1              | 23 |
| John B. Varick & Co., 2 faucets,                                                         |                | 67 |
| S. C. Nesmith, sharpening saws,                                                          |                | 40 |
| J. P. Weston, $1\frac{3}{4}$ days work,                                                  | 2              | 00 |
| D. L. White, for extracting teeth,                                                       |                | 25 |
| David Russell, 1 oz. of opium,                                                           |                | 50 |
| N. H. Weston, 1 days work,                                                               | 1              | 25 |
| G. Small, for mending chains,                                                            |                | 15 |
| Nathan Parker, use of wagon and beans,                                                   | 3              | 30 |
| “ “ use of the bull,                                                                     | 3              | 50 |
| Hardy & Parker, for goods,                                                               | 4              | 20 |
| George Nichols, 1 bottle of ink,                                                         |                | 10 |
| H. W. Marvell, $45\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of beef,                                             | 4              | 50 |
| David Sweat, for 1 bushel of rye,                                                        | 1              | 12 |
| “ “ “ sawing,                                                                            |                | 25 |
| James Fosdick, for blacksmith work,                                                      | 7              | 04 |
| S. C. Nesmith, for sharpening saw,                                                       |                | 20 |
| Harrison Eaton, for medical attendance,                                                  | 3              | 75 |
| Barr & Co., $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of Zinc, 68 cts.;                                        |                |    |
| 1 bag of salt 22c,                                                                       |                | 90 |
| E. C. Hardy, 2 bushels of rye,                                                           | 2              | 20 |
| Chase & McQuesten, store goods,                                                          | 66             | 15 |
| S. C. Anderson & Co., “                                                                  | 60             | 58 |
| Anderson & Parker, “                                                                     | 50             | 69 |
| E. P. Parker, “                                                                          | 22             | 74 |
| T. F. Moore, services as superintendent 1 year from March 1st, 1856, to March 1st, 1857, | 200            | 00 |
| Due the town for cash rec'd above that paid out,                                         | 126            | 47 |
|                                                                                          | <hr/> \$903 18 |    |

### RECEIVED FOR THE TOWN.

|                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Simeon Kenney, for use of the horse, | 25    |
| Z. G. Perry, use of Bull,            | 18    |
| Shubel Weeks, 4 Pair of feeting,     | 2 00  |
| Solomon Prince, 1 Cow,               | 30 00 |

|                                          |        |
|------------------------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Mitchel, cash left,                 | 6 67   |
| William Moore, 34 pounds of butter,      | 8 50   |
| H. A. Fletcher, one pair of Steers,      | 105 00 |
| Isaac Gage, for altering boar,           | 25     |
| William Brown, for bating horse,         | 18     |
| Joseph B. Nevins, for two calves,        | 8 00   |
| John Follansby, 1 turkey,                | 1 50   |
| David Russell, 1 pair of feeting,        | 50     |
| Thomas Hacket, 1 barrel of cider,        | 2 00   |
| Barr & French, 15 pounds of butter,      | 2 85   |
| M. M. Stevens, 1 peck of corn            | 25     |
| James C. Moore, 1 barrel of cider,       | 2 00   |
| Levi Fisher, 2 pigs,                     | 4 00   |
| Andrew Savage, 1 pig,                    | 2 00   |
| George Hodgman, boot between oxen,       | 45 00  |
| H. B. French, 1 pair of oxen,            | 118 00 |
| J. B. Nevins, 1 calf,                    | 4 50   |
| James Fosdick, 17 lbs. of veal,          | 1 00   |
| J. B. Nevins, 3 Lambs,                   | 7 50   |
| J. B. Nevins, 1 Sheep,                   | 4 50   |
| Isaac Parker, for Hay,                   | 1 50   |
| Ward Parker, 2 pigs,                     | 4 00   |
| Joseph Fowl, 1 pig,                      | 2 50   |
| Rodolphus Briggs, 1 pig,                 | 2 50   |
| Aaron Gage, 2 pigs,                      | 4 00   |
| Nathan Parker, 5 bushels of corn,        | 5 00   |
| John Smith, 2 bushels of peaches,        | 4 00   |
| Thomas Parker, and others for peaches,   | 3 73   |
| Silas Shepherd, for chickens,            | 3 75   |
| Hardy, Spofford, and others for peaches, | 4 50   |
| John Walker, " "                         | 2 77   |
| Levi Kittredge, " "                      | 3 77   |
| Miss Herrick, " "                        | 25     |
| James Blood, " "                         | 1 20   |
| Abner C. Darrah, 1 peck of apples,       | 13     |
| Bartlet Hardy and others for peaches,    | 5 50   |
| Simeon Leach, " "                        | 2 00   |
| Charles McClary, 1 peck, " "             | 35     |
| Robert Moore, 1 " "                      | 50     |
| William Moore $\frac{1}{2}$ " "          | 25     |
| H. Eaton and others for " "              | 1 56   |
| Robert French, 1 peck " "                | 40     |

|                                                   |       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Albert B. Corlis, 1 bushel of peaches,            | 1 50  |
| Daniel T. Ingalls, $\frac{1}{2}$ " "              | 65    |
| George Hacket and others for "                    | 2 00  |
| Charles N. Robbins, 1 sheep,                      | 3 75  |
| John Wheeler, 1 bushel of apples,                 | 50    |
| Leonard Walker, 3 pecks peaches,                  | 45    |
| Ward Parker, 1 peck of Quinces,                   | 50    |
| William Ferren, $23\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of butter, | 5 88  |
| Wm. McN. Smith, 1 barrel of apples,               | 2 50  |
| John Wheeler, drawing barrel of cider,            | 50    |
| Joseph C. Moore, 1 barrel of apples               |       |
| 3 00, drawing cider 50,                           | 3 50  |
| John White, 5 meals of victuals,                  | 1 25  |
| Joseph C. Moore, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of peaches, | 65    |
| Eaton Emery $23\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of butter,     | 5 88  |
| Henry Marvell, 1 pair of steers,                  | 72 00 |
| John McLaughlin, 1 ax-helve,                      | 25    |
| Samuel Patten, 20 pounds of butter,               | 5 00  |
| John Kinson, 3 pair of feeting,                   | 1 50  |
| John French, for butchering,                      | 67    |
| Wm. Moore, "                                      | 62    |
| Daniel Parker, 10 lbs of butter,                  | 2 50  |
| Nathan Parker, butchering 1,25, one               |       |
| days work, 1,25                                   | 2 50  |
| Nathan Parker, plank 75 cts., 7 chick-            |       |
| ens, 1 75, peaches 65,                            | 3 15  |
| Wm. Moore, 6 bushels of oats,                     | 3 00  |
| John Flanders, 2 pair of feeting,                 | 1 00  |
| Thomas Hacket, 10 turkeys,                        | 7 50  |
| Daniel Green, 12 bushels of oats,                 | 6 00  |
| James Fosdick, 4 pair of feeting 2 00             |       |
| peaches 65                                        | 2 65  |
| James Fosdick, 7 pounds of butter,                |       |
| 1 75, 17 pounds of veal 1 00,                     | 2 75  |
| Peter Whittemore, 2 pair of feeting,              | 1 00  |
| E. C. Parker, $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of apples      | 50    |
| " " $\frac{1}{2}$ peck of peaches,                | 16    |
| " " 6 Barrels of apples,                          | 17 00 |
| " " $136\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of Butter,            | 35 13 |
| C. C. Hardy, 5 pairs of feeting,                  | 2 50  |
| Samuel Patten, 30 lbs. butter,                    | 6 00  |



|                                                       |        |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Reuben Melvin, pasturing heifer,                      | 4 70   |        |
| Rodney Howard, 1 pair of oxen,                        | 170 00 |        |
| E. P. Parker, 12 pair of feeting,                     | 6 00   |        |
| Anderson & Parker, for feeting and<br>other articles, | 20 17  |        |
| Anderson & Co., for produce,                          | 21 14  |        |
| Chase & McQuesten, produce, labor,<br>and cash,       | 67 55  |        |
|                                                       | <hr/>  | 903 18 |

*Invoice of personal property at the Almshouse, March  
1st, 1856.*

|                                       |        |           |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Stock, shoats, &c.,                   | 557 00 |           |
| Hay and grain,                        | 332 37 |           |
| Provision,                            | 232 13 |           |
| Farming tools and household furniture | 388 37 |           |
|                                       | <hr/>  | \$1500 87 |

*Invoice of personal property, March 1st, 1857.*

|                      |        |           |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|
| Stock, shoats, &c.,  | 494 00 |           |
| Hay and grain,       | 295 00 |           |
| Provision,           | 191 20 |           |
| Farming tools,       | 194 55 |           |
| Household furniture, | 150 00 |           |
|                      | <hr/>  | \$1324 75 |

*Invoice of Personal Property at Almshouse, Feb. 1857,  
Stock, Shoats, &c.*

|                               |        |          |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| One horse,                    | 65 00  |          |
| One pair of 5 years old oxen, | 110 00 |          |
| 6 cows,                       | 225 00 |          |
| 1 two years old heifer,       | 16 00  |          |
| 5 sheep and 3 lambs,          | 20 00  |          |
| 3 shoats,                     | 45 00  |          |
| 40 chickens,                  | 10 00  |          |
| 3 turkeys,                    | 3 00   |          |
|                               | <hr/>  | \$494 00 |

*Hay and Grain.*

|                             |        |  |
|-----------------------------|--------|--|
| 14 tons of English hay,     | 210 00 |  |
| 1 ton of oat and rye straw, | 8 50   |  |
| Seed corn,                  | 1 50   |  |
| 45 bushels of corn,         | 45 00  |  |
| 55 " oats,                  | 27 50  |  |

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1 bush of beans, | 2 50           |
|                  | <hr/> \$295 00 |

*Farming Tools.*

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 5 rakes,                   | 1 00  |
| Old iron,                  | 1 50  |
| 5 scythes and snaths,      | 6 00  |
| 1 winnowing mill,          | 8 00  |
| 1 set of measures,         | 75    |
| 5 hay forks,               | 1 50  |
| 1 " knife,                 | 1 00  |
| 1 " hook,                  | 50    |
| 4 yokes,                   | 8 00  |
| 4 ladders,                 | 4 00  |
| 3 manure forks,            | 2 50  |
| 4 sickles,                 | 75    |
| 1 grain cradle,            | 2 00  |
| 1 wagon harness,           | 7 00  |
| 1 draw "                   | 2 00  |
| 4 stake chains,            | 1 00  |
| 1 spread "                 | 1 00  |
| 3 draught "                | 4 00  |
| 1 timber "                 | 2 00  |
| 1 horse wagon,             | 35 00 |
| 1 sleigh,                  | 8 00  |
| 1 wheelbarrow,             | 1 00  |
| 2 iron bars,               | 2 00  |
| 1 cart hook,               | 1 00  |
| 4 hoes,                    | 75    |
| 1 shave,                   | 10    |
| 1 grindstone,              | 5 50  |
| 4 axes,                    | 3 00  |
| Beetle and 2 wedges,       | 1 25  |
| 2 hand and cross-cut saws, | 2 00  |
| 3 wood saws,               | 1 50  |
| 5 augers,                  | 1 50  |
| 1 Fro and square,          | 33    |
| 1 plow point,              | 37    |
| 5 plows,                   | 20 00 |
| 1 stone drag,              | 1 00  |
| 1 ox-cart,                 | 12 00 |
| 1 harrow,                  | 5 00  |
| 1 horse-rake,              | 4 00  |

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 2 whiffletrees, | 75             |
| 1 hay rack,     | 3 00           |
| 1 cultivator,   | 2 00           |
| 3 sleds,        | 10 00          |
| Lot of lumber,  | 15 00          |
| 1 roller,       | 4 00           |
|                 | <hr/> \$194 55 |

*Provisions.*

|                                           |                |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 barrel of rye meal,                     | 3 00           |
| Tallow and candles,                       | 2 50           |
| 81 lbs. lard at 1 shilling,               | 13 00          |
| 20 " sausage,                             | 2 80           |
| 110 " cheese,                             | 10 00          |
| 37 " butter,                              | 9 25           |
| 10 gallons of pickles,                    | 1 25           |
| 4 " molasses,                             | 2 00           |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ barrel of salted cucumbers, | 2 50           |
| 2 " of pork,                              | 48 00          |
| 1 " of beef,                              | 15 00          |
| 20 lbs. round of beef,                    | 1 50           |
| 70 bushels of potatoes,                   | 52 50          |
| 2 barrels of cider,                       | 5 00           |
| 1 bushel of red top,                      | 1 25           |
| 30 lbs. of spare-rib,                     | 2 40           |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel vinegar,             | 2 50           |
| 100 lbs. dried apples,                    | 12 00          |
| 7 " of rolls,                             | 3 50           |
| 20 " of pumpkins,                         | 1 25           |
|                                           | <hr/> \$191 20 |

## SUPPORT OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

|                                                          |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Mr. Leonard for support of his brother,                  | 26 00         |
| D. Larrabee, " " son,                                    | 35 88         |
| O. S. Chase, goods and funeral expenses of his wife,     | 30 87         |
| Rockwood, for coffin &c., for J. Divine, (county charge) | 4 30          |
|                                                          | <hr/> \$97 05 |

## MISCELLANEOUS.

|                                                 |       |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Nathan Parker, abatement of taxes               | 15 80 |
| Paid N. P. Greene, for highway surveyor's book, | 1 60  |



|                                                    |    |                |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|----------------|
| Paid Wm. Webster tax on town farm,                 | 56 |                |
| “ George M. Center, damages,                       | 15 | 00             |
| “ N. P. Greene, invoice, books, &c.,               | 12 | 17             |
| “ Board clothing and expenses of<br>James Barnes,  | 13 | 26             |
| “ B. B. Whittemore for advertising,                | 75 |                |
| “ “ “ “ printing re-<br>ports, 1856,               | 23 | 00             |
| “ Teachers Institute tax,                          | 28 | 80             |
| “ Jesse Parker, over assessment,                   | 89 |                |
| “ For sealing weights & measures,                  | 2  | 50             |
| “ B. M. Hill, abatement of taxes on<br>settlement, | 16 | 54             |
| “ B. M. Hills, over assessments,                   | 48 | 37             |
|                                                    |    | <hr/> \$179 24 |

## RECAPITULATION.

|                                                      |      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|----|
| In the treasury March 1856,                          | 6    | 87 |
| Received from county,                                | 37   | 41 |
| Amount assessed, town, county, state,<br>and school, | 2215 | 36 |
| School house tax Dis. No. 12,                        | 10   | 00 |
| Literary fund,                                       | 108  | 83 |
| Railroad tax,                                        | 315  | 84 |
| Received of Nathan Parker on note,                   | 58   | 54 |

Whole amount received, \$2752 85

## DISBURSEMENTS.

|                               |      |                 |
|-------------------------------|------|-----------------|
| Paid schools,                 | 1068 | 83              |
| Roads and bridges,            | 387  | 35              |
| School house tax No. 12,      | 10   | 00              |
| Support of poor off the farm, | 97   | 05              |
| State tax,                    | 336  | 00              |
| County tax,                   | 609  | 78              |
| Town officers,                | 273  | 00              |
| Miscellaneous,                | 179  | 24              |
|                               |      | <hr/> \$2961 25 |

The foregoing tables exhibit the transactions of the selectmen for the past year and the condition of the town up to March 1st 1857. It will be seen by the report that the available funds in the treasury and due from the

county, &c., was but \$102 82. It will be seen also that there were outstanding bills and orders, to the amount of upwards of \$200 00; so instead of having money in the treasury, the town was actually in debt about one hundred dollars in March 1856.

The whole am't we have and are to receive from all sources for the past year, see table, is \$2752 85

Of this am't there is in the treasurer's

|                                                                                                                    |         |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| hands,                                                                                                             | 1 65    |          |
| Due from the collector, (note,)                                                                                    | 112 45  |          |
| Due from the county on account of J. Divine,                                                                       | 4 30    |          |
| Due from Nashua, on account of O. S. Chase,                                                                        | 30 87   |          |
| There is, also, due from T. F. Moore as per account,                                                               | 126 47  |          |
| Am't due the town,                                                                                                 |         | \$275 74 |
| Whole am't. paid out or ordered is                                                                                 | 2961 25 |          |
| Of which there are orders to be redeemed to the am't of about                                                      | 300 00  |          |
| There are, also, bills presented for breaking out roads, for which we have not given orders to the amount of about | 130 00  |          |
| Amount for which the town is liable about                                                                          | 430 00  |          |
| Deduct amount due the town,                                                                                        | 275 74  |          |
| Leaving the town in debt to the am't of about                                                                      |         | \$154 26 |

We have been obliged, during the past year, to repair the Field's bridge by new planking and putting in new stringers, to new plank the bridge above Nevins' tavern, and repair the bridge which washed away near Duncklee's mills, and several smaller ones, so that we are not aware that any great expense will be needed for that purpose the coming year, except the bridge near Mooney's, which will need repairing. We have also caused railings to be put up at the Turkey Hill bridge and some others, and we deem it necessary that there should be others still erected to guard against accidents, which are liable to happen at any time.

The highways are in many parts of the town in a bad condition, and we would recommend that some method be adopted if possible, which will be more efficient than the present one. In some districts the taxes are worked out faithfully, while in others, they care but little whether they are worked out or not, and in one district in town there was not one dollar of the highway tax worked out, to our knowledge, prior to the freezing up of the ground, yet we had an application for orders to go and repair a culvert at the expense of the town, and that same culvert is this day in a situation for which the town is liable to indictment, and in that same district the surveyor has sanctioned a bill for breaking out roads. Another thing which requires the attention of the town, is some method of keeping our roads broken out in the winters without having so many bills brought in by individuals. It used to be, that when we had a drifting snow storm, the inhabitants of each district would turn out en masse and break out the roads, but now with a very few exceptions if a person goes out and shovels snow an hour or two, he presents a bill to the town to cancel his taxes.

We would recommend, if this is to be the way that a winter tax be assessed, and kept on purpose for repairing the ways in winter. And now while on the subject of roads, we would say a few words in relation to a vote which was taken last fall, authorizing us to lay out a road according to the petition of Ward Parker and others.

Many doubtless supposed that by that vote, we were obliged to lay out the road, but upon taking counsel upon the subject, we found that we were not only not obliged to lay it out, but should be liable if we did, if in our opinion the public good did not require it. Well, let us see how that is. It is argued on the part of those who are in favor of the road, that two or three families cannot get to school without going through another district. Very well, there is one family in this town who cannot get to the school without going through another town, and yet they have never petitioned to have a road laid out. Another argument is, that the road will accommodate several families in going to Nashua, and several others in going to Manchester, while these same families do not average five



times a year to either place, and the distance they would save by the road, is less than a mile.

Now we contend that we have more roads in town now, than are kept in repair, and if we are to build more there are several places in town where the *public* would be better accommodated by a new road than by this one.

It has been intimated, that the cost of the road, if laid out peaceably, would be much less than if laid out by the commissioners, but that in our judgment is no excuse for building the road if it is not necessary. Indeed we would not vote to assume the liability of keeping the road in repair, subject to the danger of being washed away by every freshet, if it were built for nothing.

Such, fellow townsmen, are our views upon the subject. We regret that we were obliged to act contrary to the wishes of the people, and if we thought that vote was the expression of a majority of the town, we should feel different still, but we were sworn to discharge our duties according to the best of our abilities, and we have endeavored to do so regardless of fear or favor.

In relation to the case of Mr. Gage, we notified him to meet with us and lay the case before us in its true light, which he did, as we suppose, and we laid it before eminent counsel, and their opinion was that the town was not liable for damages, and accordingly we notified him to that effect.

The affairs at the town farm are about as they were last year, the crops have as a general thing been good. A hail storm the first part of the season threatened to cut off the corn crop entirely, but it recovered from the effects of it, and a fine crop was harvested.

There appears to have been little if any improvement in the condition of the farm. We should judge that it was deteriorating somewhat. We understood Mrs. Moore, that she had made some little addition to bed clothing, &c., but nothing of great amount. There are nine paupers at the present time, who have enjoyed unusually good health.

It will be seen by the invoice of personal property that there is a diminution of about \$185 00 that may in part be owing to the judgment of the appraisers, and also that there was but one pair of cattle this year. Mr. Moore having

sold the other pair the day we appraised the property.

It will be seen that there has been an unusually large amount of over-assessments this year.

We supposed that the Pennichuck Water Company was taxable, a portion of it in this town, but found that the stock was taxed to individuals similar to bank stock.

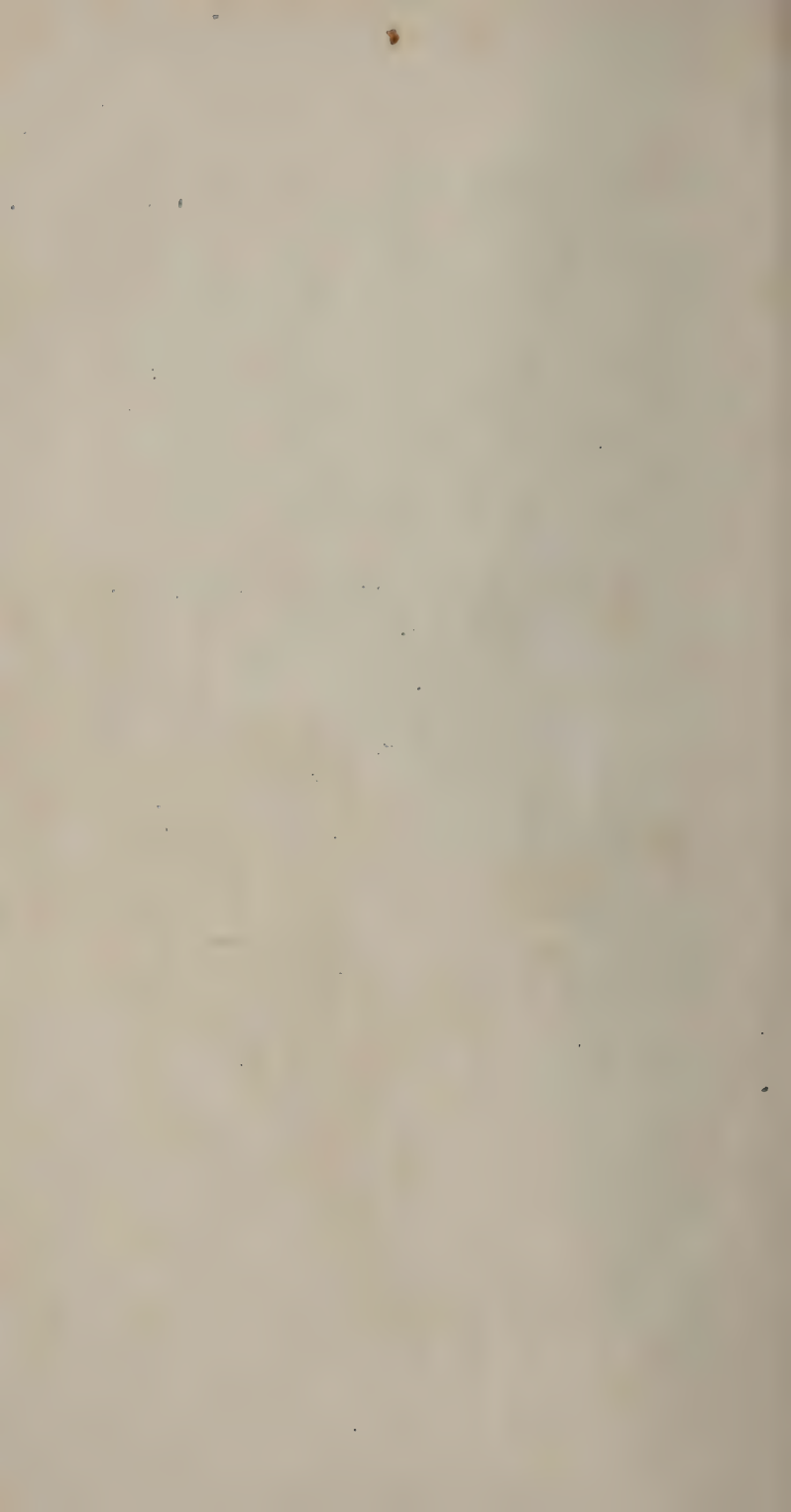
There has also been a large amount of over-assessments on bank stock, it having been returned here, we supposed it was taxable. But we find that one sum in particular has been taxed here and abated two or three years, and that is the widow Bailey, who lives in Manchester.

We speak of this that the next board may act accordingly, and return it where it belongs, that it may not go untaxed year after year.

In regard to the Liquor Agency, we do not deem it necessary to report it at length, in this already lengthy report, but simply to say that it just about pays its way. A report can be had if requested on the day of meeting by the Agent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| SMITH E. FIELDS, | } <i>Selectmen</i>  |
| JAMES HAY,       |                     |
| H. B. SPALDING,  |                     |
|                  | <i>of</i>           |
|                  | } <i>Merrimack.</i> |





# REPORT

*Of the Superintending School Committee, of the town of Merrimack, for the year ending in March, 1857.*

---

FELLOW CITIZENS:—Your committee have endeavored to perform their duty with reference to the true interests of education, and in compliance with the laws of this State. And now as our official term is about to close, we respectfully submit the following Report:

# SUMMER TERM.

|                                             |   |   |         |          |         |           |       |       |       |       |    |       |
|---------------------------------------------|---|---|---------|----------|---------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|-------|
| NO. OF DISTRICT                             | 1 | 2 | *3      | 4        | 5       | 6         | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10    | 11 | 12    |
| Whole No. of scholars                       |   |   | 52      | 29       | 17      | 24        | 21    | 17    | 55    | 19    |    | 20    |
| Average attendance                          |   |   | 41.5-25 | 16.33-64 | 13.1-11 | 21.2-3.15 | 43-54 | 11    | 45    | 12    |    | 17    |
| No. over 16 years old                       |   |   |         |          | 2       | 1         | 1     | 1     |       |       |    | 1     |
| No. between 4 and 16                        |   |   | 52      | 22       | 15      | 23        | 20    | 16    | 55    | 19    |    | 19    |
| Wages of teacher per month, including board |   |   | 21.50   |          |         |           |       | 14.00 |       |       |    |       |
| Wages of teacher per month, exclusive of "  |   |   | 10.00   | 8.00     | 10.00   | 9.00      |       | 12.00 | 8.00  |       |    | 9.00  |
| Amount contributed in board                 |   |   |         | 18.00    | 18.00   | 15.00     | 15.00 |       | 22.50 | 16.50 |    | 18.00 |
| Length of school in weeks                   |   |   | 17      | 12       | 12      | 10        | 10    | 8     | 15    | 11    |    | 12    |
| No. of instances of tardiness               |   |   | 153     | 233      | 22      | 5         | 7     | 36    | 139   | 73    |    | 47    |
| No. of scholars not absent one half day     |   |   | 18      |          | 1       | 6         | 1     | 1     | 3     |       |    | 1     |
| No. of visits by citizens and others        |   |   | 131     | 4        | 38      | 30        | 26    | 15    | 19    | 7     |    | 14    |

\*Both summer terms included.

# Winter Term.

|                                         |   |       |       |         |         |         |            |       |       |       |       |    |
|-----------------------------------------|---|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| NO. OF DISTRICT                         | 1 | 2     | 3     | 4       | 5       | 6       | 7          | 8     | 9     | 10    | 11    | 12 |
| Whole No. of scholars                   |   | 23    | 54    | 26      | 22      | 21      | 24         | 17    | 44    | 21    | 27    | 20 |
| Average attendance                      |   | 18    | 41    | 21.5-14 | 17.6-53 | 19.9-14 | 19.12-7-11 | 36    | 15.16 | 20-79 | 16    |    |
| No. over 16 years old                   |   | 8     | 2     | 4       | 10      | 7       | 1          | 4     |       | 4     | 2     |    |
| No. between 4 and 16 years              |   | 15    | 52    | 22      | 12      | 14      | 23         | 13    | 44    | 17    | 25    | 20 |
| Wages of teacher                        |   | 19.00 | 34.00 |         |         |         | 20.00      |       |       |       |       |    |
| Wages of teacher exclusive of "         |   |       | 22.00 | 25.00   | 25.00   |         | 18.00      | 12.00 | 12.00 | 12.00 | 10.00 |    |
| Amount contributed in board             |   |       | 18.00 | 22.00   | 16.00   |         | 24.00      | 15.00 | 19.50 | 22.50 | 16.50 |    |
| Length of school in weeks               |   | 13    | 9     | 9       | 19      | 8       | 10         | 12    | 10    | 13    | 15    | 11 |
| No. of instances of tardiness           |   | 56    | 321   | 205     | 29      | 51      | 49         | 82    | 157   | 135   | 277   | 25 |
| No. of scholars not absent one half day |   |       | 11    |         |         | 8       | 2          | 3     | 3     | 2     |       | 2  |
| No. of visits by citizens and others    |   | 4     | 40    | 2       | 45      |         | 10         |       | 6     | 30    | 2     | 22 |

By an arrangement of the committee, made for their convenience, the schools in districts north of Souhegan river, viz: Nos. 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were visited, examined and reported by M. P. Nichols, and those in districts south of said river, viz: Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12, by H. B. Spalding.

DISTRICT No. 1.—John L. Reed, Ag't. The summer term of this school was under the charge of Miss Lydia B. Clapp, who has taught the school before. The committee visited this school at the commencement and close of the term. She evidently gained the love of her scholars, and notwithstanding the apparent indifference of the parents and the disadvantages she was obliged to labor under in regard to the house, they made commendable progress.

The winter term was kept by Mr. Benjamin Buttrick. He failed to infuse that life and activity into the scholars, which is desirable, notwithstanding they made fair progress. For some reason he neglected to fill out his Register, and consequently took it home with him and has not returned it. It would be well for agents to pay a little more attention to the law in that respect and not pay a teacher till *he* has complied with the laws.

DISTRICT No. 2. — Capt. Samuel Campbell, Agent. All the money in this district is judiciously appropriated to the winter term. This school is composed mainly of large scholars, well advanced in their studies. The present term has been under the care of Miss Sarah H. Prince, of Amherst. Miss Prince is an experienced teacher, faithful and thorough in her instruction, and, by her mild and pleasing manners, secures the confidence and respect of her pupils. The scholars improved their time well, and passed a very satisfactory examina-

tion. The teacher bears testimony in her Register, not only to the uniform good deportment of the scholars, their diligence in their studies, and to the kindness and respect which they ever manifested towards her, but that the parents generally, by the interest which they manifested in the school, exerted a most salutary influence upon the scholars.

DISTRICT No. 3.—Agent, Mr. Samuel C. Anderson. The first summer term of this school, under the care of Miss M. Lizzie Parker, was conducted with a commendable degree of perseverance. Considerable improvement was observed in regard to order and stillness, and the scholars made a fair progress in their studies.

The second summer term was commenced by the same teacher, who, in consequence of ill health, was soon under the necessity of giving up her school. Miss Annette J. Parker was then employed as teacher for the remainder of the term; but as the former teacher was soon able to resume her charge in part, and as the school was considered too large for one to teach advantageously, she was again employed to teach conjointly with Miss A. J. Parker. The closing examinations were well attended by members of the district, and the exercises passed off very agreeably to all present.

Winter term kept by Mr. John H. Jenkins.—The school was not so quiet and orderly this term as would be desirable, though the teacher endeavored to make it so by kind and persuasive measures. By his patient and persevering efforts, however, the scholars, generally, made commendable progress in their studies.

DISTRICT No. 4.—Joseph Blanchard, Agent.—The summer term was kept by Miss Lucy M. Cragin, who did the best she could, but being inexperienced, she was not so successful as we wished.—



In our opinion, one great fault was her familiarity with the scholars, thereby rendering her government ineffectual. Not that we would have a teacher too reserved and dignified, but there is a medium between the two, and a teacher in avoiding one extreme should not rush into the other.

The parents in this district, in common with those of other districts, are too negligent in regard to visiting the school. Could they be made to realize the great benefits resulting from a regular visitation, they would not hesitate a moment. It is not that they are indifferent to their 'children's welfare, but their entire confidence in the teachers, thinking that if they do them no good, they will not harm them, which is not the case, a teacher will exert an influence either good or evil, therefore parents should see to it that it be not the latter.

A private school of six weeks, was successfully taught by Miss Lydia Batchelder. The winter term was commenced under favorable auspices, by Mr. Artemas E. Ball. But owing to some circumstances, it was not so profitable as was hoped.

DISTRICT No. 5.—Isaac H. Humphrey, Agent. The summer term was under the superintendence of Miss Nancy S. Colburn, who is deserving of much praise for her faithfulness, in the discharge of the arduous duties of a teacher. The examination was creditable to both scholars and teacher.—One thing worthy of notice is, there were some fifteen or twenty citizens present at the examination, which certainly speaks well for the interest in that district.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Joseph E. Patrick, who appeared to have labored assiduously for the advancement of his school. Although he has not had the experience of some, this being his

first term, yet the examination passed off very creditably indeed, and by experience we think he will rank high as a teacher.

DISTRICT No. 6.—B. M. Hills, Agent. The summer term was taught by Miss Addie H. McKean, a teacher of considerable experience, who has gained a reputation in other towns, which will not suffer in this. The school appeared prosperous and happy, she having won the confidence and esteem of all the scholars.

The winter term of this school was under the charge of Mr. Noah Wallace, a teacher of considerable experience, also. Owing to not getting notice, we were not present at the examination of the regular term, but the school was continued four weeks by subscription, which gave us an opportunity to visit it, before the close, which we availed ourselves of, and were very much gratified with the exercises.

DISTRICT No. 7.—Mr. John McGilvray, Agent. Miss Lizzie N. Bailey taught the summer term.—The scholars were *quiet*, orderly and studious.—Their lessons were well prepared, and their recitations prompt. Very creditable attainments were made this term. The teacher evidently set her standard high, and labored diligently to promote the best interests of the school. For her first attempt at teaching, we consider it quite successful.

Winter term taught by Rev. Abel Fletcher.—Mr. Fletcher is one of our *working* teachers. His instruction is thorough and discipline good. A marked improvement was made this term in all the branches studied, especially in Arithmetic. The writing books were very neatly kept. The school appeared very well on examination, and it has evidently been a prosperous term. We find the following remarks, in the winter Register, by

the teacher. "It has been an object with the teacher to suppress, and guard the children against *profanity*. No instances of profanity have come to the teacher's knowledge, except in two instances, and these were *very small* scholars."

DISTRICT No. 8.—Agent, Mr. Josiah B. Chandler. Teacher of summer term, Miss A. Jenette Crosby. Her first effort at teaching has proved successful. She appeared active and energetic.—The scholars made good improvement of their time and passed an examination much to their praise.

Winter term kept by Mr. C. M. Kittridge. He labored diligently for the improvement of the school, and, though he was entirely inexperienced as a teacher, gave entire satisfaction to the district. The advancement made under his instruction, commend both teacher and scholars.

"Outline Maps" would greatly add to the interest of this school. Indeed they are almost indispensably necessary in any of our common schools. These, with a cheap Globe, which may be had for *one dollar*, would nearly complete the apparatus for this school.

DISTRICT No. 9.—Mr. David Henderson, Agent. The summer and winter terms were both under the instruction of Miss Margaret Henderson. Miss Henderson possesses faculties peculiarly adapted to the wants of this school. By her mild and winning manners, combined with energy and perseverance, she has succeeded in keeping up a lively interest during both terms. This is a large school, composed chiefly of small scholars. The examinations at the close of both terms passed off very happily, evincing a decided improvement. Their answers to questions on the "Mural Maps," which were purchased the present year, were generally prompt and correct.

The same teacher was employed in a private school of several weeks, between the summer and winter terms. As a substantial proof of the *warm* attachment of the scholars to their teacher, they have presented her with a valuable set of Furs.—The Prudential Committee is worthy of commendation for the interest which he has manifested in this school, and for his liberality in painting the school-house *at his own expense*.

DISTRICT No. 10.—Mr. Oliver McConihe and Mr. David Swett, Agents. *Summer Term*. Those scholars who continued till the close of the term, under the care of Miss Sarah N. Shepard, made a fair proficiency in their studies. It was an object with the teacher to have short lessons well prepared. The government was of a mild and persuasive character.

Winter term taught by Miss Lucy A. Wilkins. Miss Wilkins has taught several terms in town, and has been reported as an “active and energetic” teacher. She has this term, not only fully sustained her reputation, but added to it. The scholars made rapid progress in their studies. The closing examination was well attended by members of this, and a neighboring district, and the exercises were very interesting and satisfactory.

DISTRICT No. 11.—John L. Bowers, Agent.—The summer term was taught by Miss Mary E. Collins. We were not in at the commencement, not being notified of the time. We visited it the third week, and the scholars appeared to be doing well. But receiving no notice of its close we were not present, therefore cannot speak of the proficiency made.

The winter term was taught by Miss Laura B. Root. There seems to have been a manifest negligence in this district, either on the part of the committee or teachers, or both. The law is explicit on



this point, that it is illegal for a teacher to commence a school without having presented to the Prudential Committee a certificate from the Superintending Committee, that she is qualified according to law, yet neither teacher applied for an examination, nor were we notified of the commencement of the school, till the third week, and of its close not at all. Now this is not as it should be. The laws should be respected while they remain on the Statute book, else we may as well not have any. As we were in the school but once we cannot judge of the advancement.

DISTRICT No. 12.—Thos. M. King, Agent.—Both terms of this school were under the care of Miss Betsey J. Bills, a teacher of large experience. The school under her management was very successful, every thing being quiet and orderly. The recitations were very prompt denoting a thoroughness in what they had been over. We would suggest that her services be again secured if possible before it is too late.

Your committee in concluding their Report are unable to compare the condition of the schools the present with that of any former year, but we are of the opinion, they have generally been under good instruction, and the scholars have made good improvement in their studies. The majority of our school houses are very comfortable and convenient, while others are less so, and ought to be promptly repaired. It is desirable that our schools should be better supplied with school apparatus.

Each district should furnish their school with a large Blackboard, a set of "Outline Maps," a cheap Globe and an unabridged Dictionary. A clock, also, is very desirable, likewise, "Square and Cube Root Blocks," to aid in the study of Mathematics.

The teachers have not all returned their Registers,

and some which have been returned, are but imperfectly filled out.

Prudential Committees as well as Teachers, should pay a strict regard to the law, which is very explicit on this point, and reads as follows: "It shall be the duty of every teacher of a public school, to make, at the close thereof, a report to the Superintending Committee of the town, of the number of scholars, male and female, that have attended; the branches of learning taught, and the progress made. And no teacher shall be entitled to pay for his services, until this provision is complied with." —*Pamphlet Laws, Chap. 317, Sec. 2, Page 297.*

We do not design to occupy much space with "General Remarks," and will therefore close with a single suggestion, which is this—that the districts in choosing their Prudential Committees—which is a responsible office—should aim to select men who are known to feel a deep interest in the best welfare of the school. And we would urge such committees to employ teachers, to them *personally* known as possessing high qualifications for their calling, or such as come highly recommended from sources which they *know* to be reliable.

MATTHEW P. NICHOLS,  
HOSEA B. SPALDING,

*Superintending School Committee of Merrimack.*  
Merrimack, Feb. 26th, 1857.





New Hampshire State Library



3 4677 00330292 9